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Prudhoe Urban District Council

County of Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1962





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COUNCIL OFFICES,
18 SOUTH ROAD,
PRUDHOE ON TYNE,
NORTHUMBERLAND.
Tel. : Prudhoe 281 and 282.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

—o—

Chairman : Councillor J. RIDLEY

Members :

Councillors : J. A. CRYSTAL
F. J. FENWICK
Dr. D. L. GOLIGHTLY
Mrs. P. GRANGE
A. R. JOHNSTON
W. A. LIDDLE
Mrs. F. McBRIDE
Alderman Rev. R. E. ROBSON, J.P.

—o—

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH : MADGE HOPPER,
South Area Health Office, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.
Newburn Road,
THROCKLEY.
Tel. : Lemington 67-4365.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR : W. G. TWEDDLE, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK AND SHORTHAND TYPIST : Miss J. GRAY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1962

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour once again to present an Annual Report to you.

The vital statistics for the year indicated no very prominent feature but some variations were apparent. The population showed a slight increase, the number of deaths of residents a slight decrease and the number of births a decided rise, so that the natural increase of the population was higher than for some years.

The infant mortality rate dropped to a lower level than that of the country generally and also that of the previous year.

In regard to individual causes of death of residents, those from Coronary Disease decreased by 16 and the general classification of Heart and Circulatory Diseases showed a fall of 30 on the number registered in 1961. Unfortunately, there was an increase in the number of deaths from Malignant Neoplasm, especially in those of the abdominal organs, which rose by eight and of the lungs and bronchi which rose from one in 1961 to four in 1962.

Two deaths from motor accidents occurred compared with one the previous year. An encouraging feature was the fall in deaths from accidents in the home. There was one death of an elderly woman of 86 from this cause, whereas in 1961 there were three fatal home accidents. It is hoped that constant propaganda and teaching is having an effect in this respect.

Deaths from Suicide are fortunately rare in the urban district, only three having taken place in the last nine years. There was one in 1962.

The death rate from Tuberculosis remained the same as in the previous year, one death being recorded. The incidence of the disease showed a very welcome decline to one notification only from three in 1961 and five in 1960. The steady fall is quite in keeping with the trend throughout the country and shows the great value of present treatment allied to improved social services and early diagnosis largely stemming from the Mass Radiography Service. No longer is Tuberculosis such a dread disease.

Notifications of infectious fevers reached an extremely low level of six cases only, five of Scarlet Fever and one of Dysentery. This is the lowest recorded total number of notifications in the last 31 years ; for eight of the months of 1962, no notification at all was received. This was mainly due to the biennial recession of Measles which was fairly prevalent the previous year.

No case of Whooping Cough was notified as against 35 in 1961. The immunisation campaign against Whooping Cough has steadily progressed since 1952. At first the number of children under one year

of age who were immunised was comparatively small but this number has progressively increased each year, until in 1962 the number of children under one year and just over who received this protection was round about 91% of the total births. Only a little further effort is required to advance this figure still more. The Whooping Cough graph contained in the report, shows the steady fall in incidence concomitant with the increase in the number of immunisations each year, and is of considerable interest.

The list of infectious diseases with no notification at all received in the year is quite impressive, comprising Measles, Whooping Cough, Food Poisoning, Poliomyelitis, Primary Pneumonia and Influenza, the latter in spite of some severe weather during the Winter.

As in former years, considerable attention was paid to the needs of persons suffering from illness requiring special housing amenities and to those who, from cardiac disease or cerebral haemorrhage, were almost if not completely housebound, and were living in a hilly part of the district with steep steps or stairs to climb. Six cases were brought to the attention of the appropriate committee during the year.

In former reports, I have commented on the changing face of Prudhoe. The year 1962 saw a further change. Demolition took place of 167 old colliery houses at Mickley Square and the eleven Broomwood Huts ; demolition of the 43 houses at Eltringham was commenced also. Demolition of The Terrace, West Wylam, was completed by the end of the year ; the families were rehoused at the West Wylam Estate on which 604 dwellings have been built.

A stranger traversing Prudhoe, no longer sees rows of dismal dwellings ; the district has had, not a face lift, but a new face.

Some private development also continued during the year.

A unique feature of 1962 was the construction and opening in the Autumn of a new swimming pool.

The other activities of the Public Health Department continued smoothly all through the year. The liaison between the Department and the County in connection with the voluntary services was drawn closer, especially in connection with the welfare of old people. A valuable contribution in this work is expected in the near future through the Youth Club organisation.

My thanks are again due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their sustained and lively interest in the work of the Department. Mr. Tweddle, Public Health Inspector, has given his usual valuable and assiduous attention to the work of the department and Miss Gray, Clerk/Typist, her excellent services throughout the year. The co-operation of the other officers of the Council is appreciated.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	3,889
Population (Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population)	.. .. .	10,180
Inhabited Houses	.. .. .	3,154

No collieries now exist in the urban district, the last one being closed in 1961. The I.C.I. Chemical Works are in the process of closing down and will cease to function within a few years.

A new industry that of Clevedon Engineering Productions Limited, commenced during 1962 giving employment to 200 workers.

The Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital has been greatly enlarged in the past few years and is still being developed. Considerable numbers of local workers are employed at the Hospital.

POPULATION

In 1961, there was a decrease in the population for the first year since 1955. This year it is pleasing to report that this was reversed, the Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population of the urban district was 10,180, an increase of 190.

BIRTHS

A total of 168 births (85 male, 83 female) was registered in the course of the year, an increase of seventeen (5 male, and 12 female) births on the figures of the previous year.

There were three illegitimate births (2 male, 1 female) compared with two in 1961 and four in 1960.

The birth rate (corrected) for the year was 16.3 per 1,000 births while that for England and Wales was 18.0. This is the highest birth rate recorded during the last twelve years with the exception of the rate of 17.5 in 1958.

Two still births were registered as in the previous year. This works out at a still birth rate of 11.7 per 1,000 live and still births as against 18.1 for the country generally.

DEATHS

A total of 123 deaths (67 male and 56 female) was registered ; 24 of these deaths occurred in the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. In 1961, the total number of deaths was 129 (75 male and 54 female), 18 deaths occurring in the Hospital.

In the year under review, there was a decrease of eight deaths among males and an increase of four deaths in females. The number of deaths of residents of the district was 99, compared with 111 in 1961 and 90 in 1960. The death rate (corrected) for the urban district was 13.6 per 1,000 population ; the national rate was 11.9.

Natural Increase of Population

There was a slight increase to 69 on the total number of births over the number of deaths, excluding those in the Hospital. In previous years this had been very low, being 40 in 1961 and 48 in 1960.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered three (2 male and 1 female) compared with four infant deaths in 1961 and two in 1960. Two of these deaths in 1962 occurred during the first few days of life and were due to peri-natal causes. One death occurred at the age of six months and was due to broncho pneumonia.

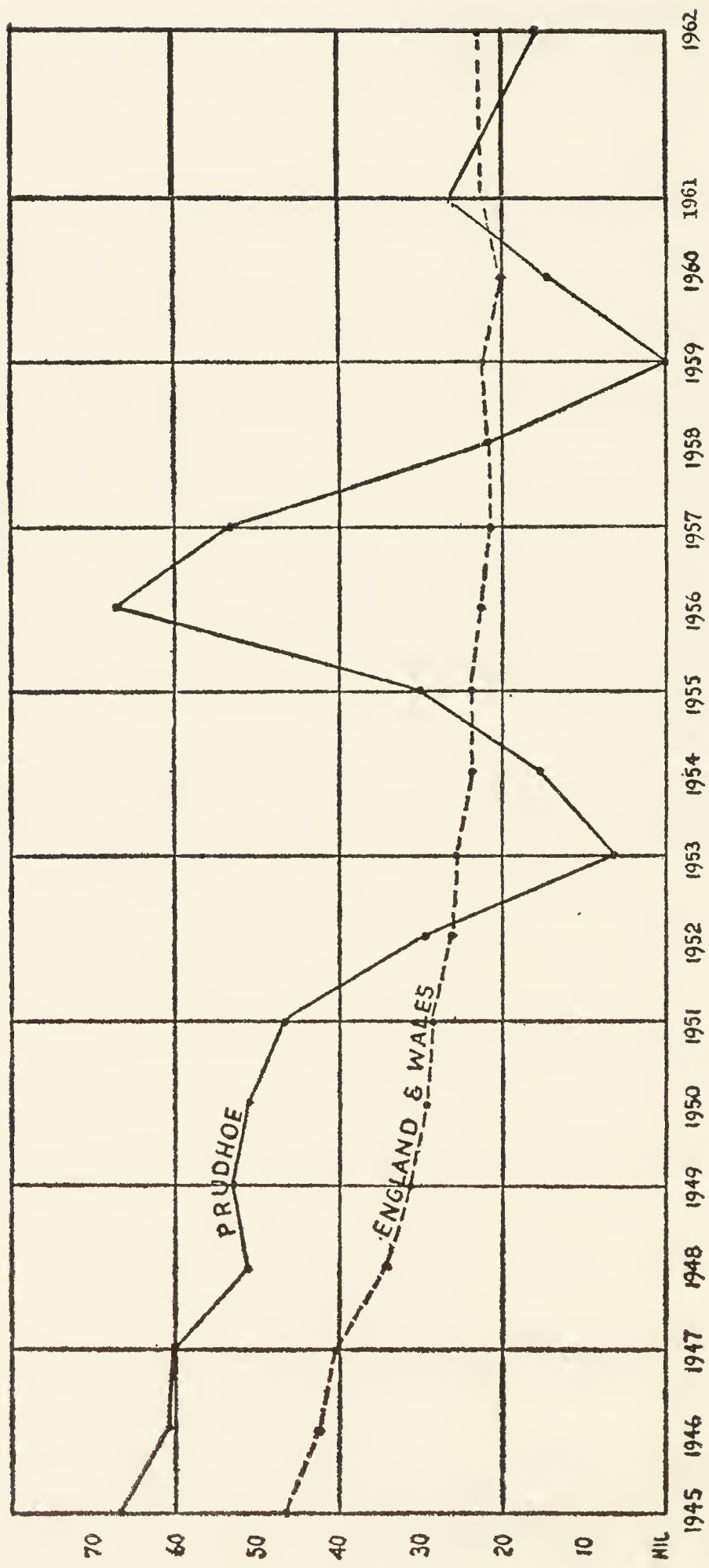
The infant mortality rate for the urban district was 17.8 per 1,000 live births compared with 21.4 for England and Wales. In 1961, the comparative rates were 26.5 for Prudhoe and 21.4 for the country as a whole.

The downward trend in the infant mortality rate is very welcome and brings it once again below the national rate. Last year there were two deaths from infective causes ; this dropped to one in 1962. Deaths from infective causes have been very considerably reduced in recent years due to the effective armamentum of the antibiotics and sulphonamide drugs, but an occasional death still occurs. Continued effort is necessary in this field and in that of peri-natal care.

Maternal Mortality

For the sixth successive year, no death attributable to pregnancy or childbirth was registered. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.35 per 1,000 total live and still births.

INFANT MORTALITY 1945 to 1962



Individual Causes of Death :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	I	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.. ..	I	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	4	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.. ..	8	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	I	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	11 (4)	15 (5)
Coronary disease, angina	10 (5)	8 (1)
Hypertension with heart disease	I	—
Other heart disease	5	2
Other circulatory disease	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	3 (1)	4 (2)
Bronchitis	5	I
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	I	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	3	4 (1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	9 (3)	8 (2)
Motor vehicle accidents	I	I
All other accidents	—	I
Suicide	I	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	<u>67 (13)</u>	<u>56 (11)</u>

Figures in brackets denote deaths in the Prudhoe & Monkton Hospital).

The number of deaths from “ Vascular lesions of nervous system ” remained similar in both years being 17 in 1962 and 18 in 1961.

Deaths of residents in the grouping of “ Heart and Circulatory Diseases ” showed an impressive fall to 20, from 43, in 1961, hospital deaths being excluded in both figures. The decrease was mainly in those due to “ Coronary disease, angina ” which dropped from 25 to twelve and in those classed as “ Other circulatory diseases ” which dropped from six in 1961 to none in 1962. Last year the number of deaths in this grouping increased by 16 and have dropped by 23 in 1962.

Deaths classified under Malignant neoplasms of all sites showed a considerable increase to a total of 25 from 14, the previous year. The increase was mainly in two classifications. That of "all other sites" (which was mainly of the abdominal organs) more than doubled to 15 from seven in 1961 while deaths from lung cancer increased by three from one the previous year. In the latter category all were males aged between 51 and 71, two worked in collieries, one was a tractor driver and one a gardener; three were cigarette smokers of 15—20 a day and one a non-smoker.

Deaths from respiratory diseases generally remained the same in both years; the number of deaths in this grouping has remained constant for a number of years.

No death from Influenza or from Leukaemia was registered.

There were two fatal "Motor vehicle accidents" compared with one in each of the two previous years. A boy of four years was knocked down by a skidding lorry and killed and the other fatal accident was a woman of 66 who died from a fractured skull after being knocked down by a motor van.

A welcome decrease took place in the number of deaths from "All other accidents" which dropped to one from three the previous year. This death was of an elderly lady of 86 who died from cerebral thrombosis accelerated by an accidentally fractured left hand. The accident occurred at home.

There was one death registered from "Suicide." Such deaths are rare in this district, there being one in 1960 and one in 1954.

**TABLE OF DEATH AND BIRTH RATES
COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES**

Year	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales
1951	9.2	12.5	47.6	29.6	13.3	15.5
1952	9.6	11.3	30.3	27.6	14.05	15.3
1953	12.5	11.4	6.7	26.8	14.67	15.5
1954	13.08	11.3	16.9	25.5	11.25	15.2
1955	13.4	11.7	30.5	24.9	13.5	15.0
1956	14.2	11.7	66.6	23.8	12.5	15.7
1957	12.2	11.5	54.0	23.0	14.7	16.1
1958	12.8	11.7	12.2	22.5	17.5	16.4
1959	15.06	11.6	0.0	22.2	15.2	16.5
1960	12.7	11.5	14.5	21.7	13.3	17.1
1961	15.2	12.0	26.5	21.4	14.9	17.4
1962	13.6	11.9	17.8	21.4	16.3	18.0

II.—TUBERCULOSIS

One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was registered as in the previous year and no death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The death rate for the urban district for tuberculosis (all forms) was 0.1 per 1,000 population and that for England and Wales was 0.66.

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows a further welcome decline to one notification this year from three in 1961 and five in 1960. There were two notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one in the Hospital and one of a resident.

The trend of recent years, a steady decline in incidence, is more particularly shown this year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st December, 1961	22	13	11	6	52
31st December, 1962	22	14	11	7	54

Classification of New Cases Notified in 1962

		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Under 1 year	..	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	..	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	..	—	—	— (1)	—
15—25 years	..	—	1	—	—
25—35 years	..	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	..	—	—	—	—
45 years and over	..	—	—	—	1
		—	1	— (1)	1

(Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital cases indicated in brackets.)

Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit 1A of the Newcastle General Hospital pays regular visits to the Hospital and holds public sessions. In 1962 the Unit visited the Hospital for the survey of patients and staff on the 10th to 16th July and public sessions were held in Prudhoe from the 17th to the 20th August.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number x-rayed	135	181	316
Number referred to Chest Clinic	2	1	3

Patients from the urban district attend the Chest Clinic at Hexham under the Senior Chest Physician and admittance to Wooley Sanatorium is usually immediate. The surveillance of family contacts and their follow-up is carried out by the Chest Clinic and home visiting by the health visitors. Tuberculin testing, followed by B.C.G., vaccination as necessary is given to children at risk and to the older age groups of children at school with the parent's consent.

As in former years, special attention was given by the Council to the housing needs of tuberculous patients.

The sanatorium at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital continued to receive and treat mentally disordered patients suffering from tuberculosis. Below is appended a table giving the number of cases at the end of the year.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st December, 1961	30	15	2	2	49
31st December, 1962	30	15	3	2	50

Patients from other institutions for the mentally disordered who are also suffering from tuberculosis are admitted to the sanatorium.

III.—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

The total number of infectious diseases notifications during the course of the year was six, compared with 122 in 1961 and 34 in 1960. This is an exceedingly small number of notifications and is the lowest recorded during the last 31 years.

For eight months of the year, no notification of an acute infectious fever was received.

Measles

In recent years, notifications of Measles have provided the highest incidence of any infectious fever. In 1962, no case of Measles was notified ; there were 82, in 1961. The pattern of biennial increase of Measles has been faithfully followed during the last ten years, 1959 being the year of highest incidence when 379 cases were notified. The incidence in 1961 was very much smaller.

Scarlet Fever

There was a very slight increase in the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever from two in 1961 to five in 1962. Four of these cases occurred in the Autumn of the year and all were of a very mild type.

Whooping Cough

As in 1960, no case of Whooping Cough was notified in the year ; there were 35 in 1961. The rise in incidence last year was somewhat disappointing but on studying the graph which has been continued this year showing the gradually decreasing incidence and the rising level of Whooping Cough immunisation, it appears that small subsidiary curves in incidence are to be expected. Since the further increase in immunisation in 1955/56 after the initial commencement in 1952 the level of immunisation against Whooping Cough in young children has remained high, a substantial number being protected each year. Continued effort is required to keep up this high level.

Dysentery

As in the previous year, one case only was notified. This has been a very welcome decrease in incidence during the last few years.

Food Poisoning

No case of Food Poisoning or even of suspected Food Poisoning occurred during the year. This is the fifth successive year there has been no notification of this disease.

Salmonellosis

No case of Salmonellosis occurred.

Poliomyelitis

Again, no case of Poliomyelitis was notified during the year as in the previous year.

Primary Pneumonia and Influenza

There was no notification in the course of the year under this heading. One case was notified in 1961 and four in 1960. This is very encouraging as there was some severe weather in March and in the early part of the Winter.

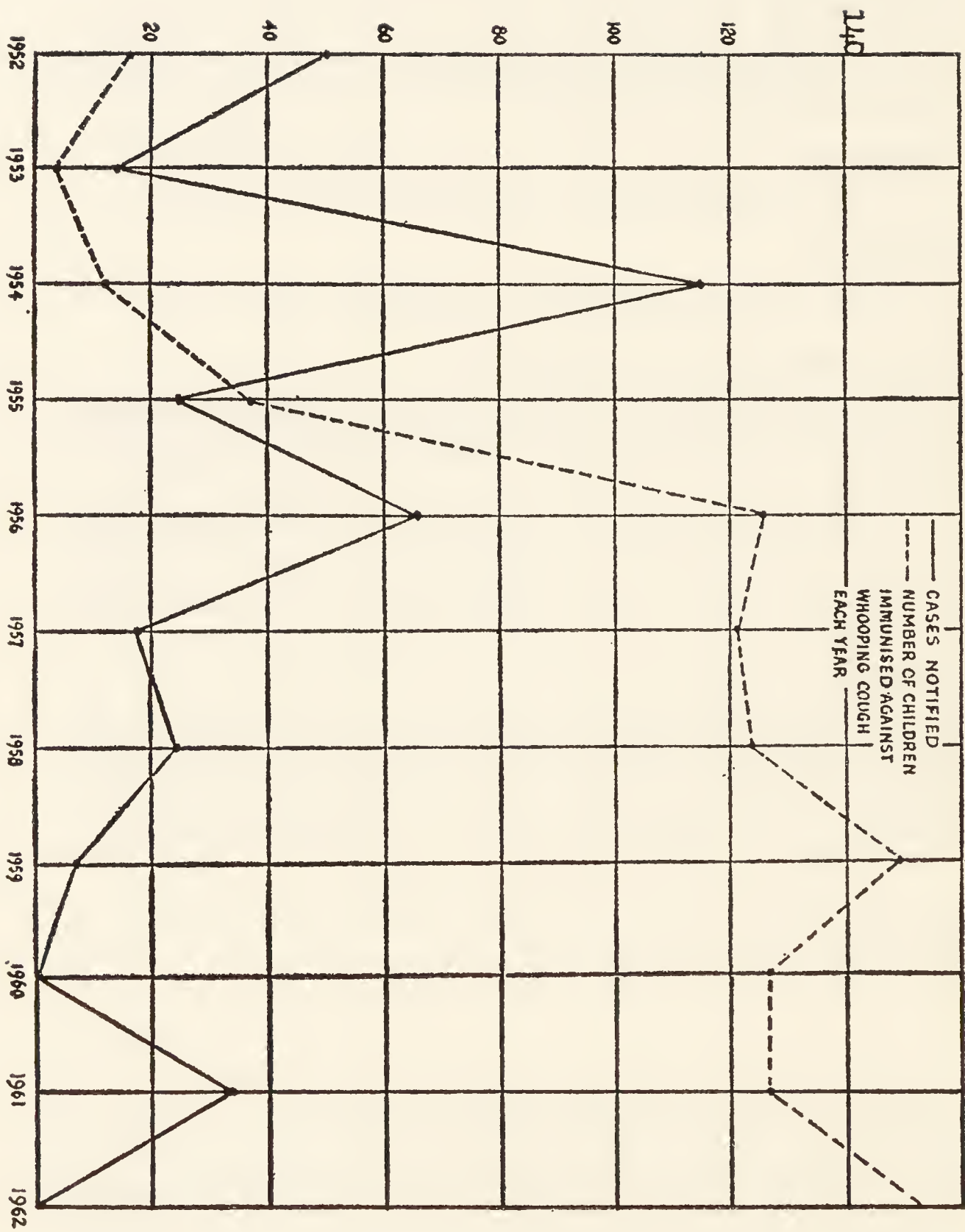
Following the usual practice, the general practitioners of the district co-operated with the Public Health Department in keeping a close watch for initial cases of Influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications. Colds and their complications were prevalent during the Winter.

Brucellosis

A case of Brucellosis in a young man living in the district and being treated at the Hexham General Hospital was reported to me. Samples of milk from the farm where he obtained his milk supply were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The samples were found to be completely satisfactory.

No further case in the district was reported.

WHOOPING COUGH INCIDENCE 1952 - 1962



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

Smallpox ..	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
do. (Non-Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	6

FOOD POISONING

Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) as Returned to Registrar General :

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases Otherwise Ascertained				
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Symptomless Excretors				
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Fatal Cases				
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

PARTICULARS OF OUTBREAKS :

<i>AGENT</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>		<i>No. of Cases</i>		<i>Total No. of cases</i>
	<i>Family outbreaks</i>	<i>Other outbreaks</i>	<i>Notified</i>	<i>Otherwise ascertained</i>	
Agent identified :					
(a) Chemical					
Poisons ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(b) Salmonella .	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci					
(incl. toxin)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(d) Cl. botulinum	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(e) Cl. welchii..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(f) Other bacteria					
(to be named)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Agent not					
identified..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Single Cases ..			Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Agent not					
identified..			Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Salmonella Infec-					
tions, not					
Food-Borne	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The examination of faeces, sputum, throat swabs, ice cream, milk and water, was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Bacteriological Reports

			<i>Results</i>		<i>Total</i>
			<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	
Faeces	—	6	6
Sputum	—	—	—
Throat Swabs	—	7	7
Vaginal Swabs	—	—	—
Totals			—	13	13

IV.—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47—**Removal to suitable premises of persons suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged and infirm, are living in insanitary conditions and in need of care and attention.**

No formal action was taken under this section but a number of visits to elderly persons were made and help provided as required by the Home Help Service.

In several instances, recommendation was made to the appropriate Committee for rehousing due to lack of special amenities, unsuitability of present housing conditions or to specific demands such as hemiplegia, coronary thrombosis, partial blindness.

Section 50—**Burial of the Dead.**

No formal action was required under this section.

V.—HOUSING

Early in 1962, the contract for 108 dwellings which had been commenced in 1961 was completed making a total of 604 dwellings on the West Wylam Estate. A further contract for 39 houses was commenced in the Autumn of 1962.

During the year Broomwood Huts (11) were demolished and all the families from Eltringham (43) were rehoused. Demolition of Eltringham Village commenced in consequence.

The old colliery houses (167) at Mickley Square were all demolished and the sites cleared. Demolition of The Terrace, West Wylam, was completed during December.

An enquiry was held on 4th December regarding an application by the Council for a Clearance Order in respect of ten back-to-back houses in Prospect Terrace Nos. 5 to 9 and 5A to 9A.

With regard to private development, an estate of 51 houses was completed at Highfield Lane and twelve houses are under construction for the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board at Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.

Several individual houses have also been built in the district.

VI.—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action arising from the operation of this Act was necessary during the year.

It has been noted that oil central heating for public buildings is being increasingly used.

VII.—WATER SUPPLY

All houses in the Prudhoe U.D.C's. area are served from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and at all times the supply has proved ample and wholesome.

Mr. S. G. Barrett, General Manager and Engineer, of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company has kindly informed me that during 1962, 1,246 samples of filtered water were examined at the Company's Throckley Laboratories ; 99.2% samples were classified "Excellent", 0.6% "Satisfactory" and 0.2% "Unsatisfactory."

Independent bacteriological analysis was also undertaken by some of the authorities receiving water supplies from the Company and out of a total number of 380 samples thus examined, 354 were classified "Excellent", 23 "Satisfactory", one "Suspicious" and two "Unsatisfactory." In all cases where there had been "Suspicious" or "Unsatisfactory" classifications check samples proved excellent.

The demolition of 43 houses at Eltringham Village, many of them without internal water supplies now leaves only two houses with outside hydrants.

VIII.—SWIMMING POOL

In the latter part of 1962, a swimming pool was opened to the public as a result of the Council having purchased a disused cinema and converted it.

Samples of the pool water were found satisfactory after bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory.

IX.—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The district is served by a large modern sewage works at Low Prudhoe to which practically all properties are drained with the exception of 150 houses at New Ridley which deliver into the sewers of the Hexham R.D.C.

X.—FOOD HYGIENE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The Public Health Inspector again made regular visits to all food premises in the town. Any matters requiring attention were dealt with and instructions given to the staff.

Food Hygiene posters were obtained and displayed in suitable places throughout the district.

Lectures and talks on topical public health subjects are given from time to time by the staff of the department to various groups mainly women's organisations and student nurses.

Eleven samples of milk were taken by the Northumberland County Council Health Department and were all reported to be satisfactory.

Thirteen samples of ice cream were taken and all being entirely satisfactory were placed in Grade I. No ice cream is manufactured in Prudhoe, all ice cream being prepacked and sold from refrigerators.

XI.—WELFARE FOR THE AGED

The Old People's Welfare Committee continued their work throughout the year. No further progress was made in establishing a rota of friendly visiting but it is hoped that a commencement will soon be made in this direction although old people living in this district generally have relatives and friendly neighbours.

The chiropody service which had been commenced in March, 1960 held 46 sessions at the clinic.

There are two "Over 60" Clubs which hold regular meetings.

XII.—LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in Prudhoe.

XIII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The details of this section have been compiled by Mr. W. G. Tweddle, Public Health Inspector.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(a) REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Hospitals

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Walker Gate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital

This hospital has been much enlarged over the past six or seven years and admits nearly 1300 mental patients from all parts of the region.

During the year a school for over 200 children was completed and four other major units were built for patients. Further constructional work was in progress at the end of the year.

Tuberculosis

The Care and After-Care Committee held regular meetings in which the needs of tubercular patients and those suffering from heart and other lung diseases are considered. The services available include the provision of extra milk, comforts and any particular requirement. Among other officials, the social worker of the clinic and the health visitors of the district attend these meetings so that the existing circumstances of patients are known.

(b) LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES

(Services 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the care of the buildings under Service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub. Committee of the Northumberland County Council. The other services are directly administered by the Northumberland County Council).

1. Midwifery and Home Nursing Service

Two resident nurse/midwives named below cover these services in the urban district together with a relief nurse from Stocksfield, Nurse Davison. In addition, nurses from the Stocksfield district afford additional cover as necessary.

	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Nurse M. Bolam, 7 South Road, Prudhoe.	598 Prudhoe
Nurse L. Kerr, 3 Gordon Terrace, Prudhoe.	405 Prudhoe

2. Maternity and Child Welfare

The Child Welfare Clinic at the Council Yard, Prudhoe holds sessions for babies, children, expectant mothers, dental, eye and orthopaedic treatment as follows :—

<i>Children's Sessions</i> :	Every Wednesday,	9 a.m., to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<i>Ante-Natal Sessions</i> :	Every Tuesday, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday,	1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<i>Eye Sessions</i> :	2nd Thursday in every month,	9 a.m. to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<i>Orthopaedic Sessions</i> :	1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Thursday in every month,	9 a.m. to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<i>Dental Sessions</i> :	Every Monday,	9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
<i>Immunisation Sessions</i> :	1st Tuesday in every month,	9 a.m. to 12 noon.
A speech therapist attends every Monday,		9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Relaxation classes every Wednesday evening for expectant mothers		7 p.m. to 8-30 p.m.

3. Immunisation and Vaccination

Diphtheria immunisation was regularly carried out, as in many years past, at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic and by the general practitioners of the district. Refresher doses were given at the schools. Primary courses were given as follows :—156 children (0—4 years) and one to a child of (5—15 years), giving a total of 157. In 1961, the primary courses were 141 to children 0—4 years and 43, 5—15 years, a total of 184, 241 refresher doses were given in the course of the year, compared with 110 the previous year. Although the total number of primary injections had slightly fallen by 27 in the two years, it is significant that the number of primary injections to young children 0—4 years, showed an increase and there were fewer primary courses being given over the age of 5 years. This appears to indicate that the parents are heeding the advice given at the clinic and by their doctors, to keep to the schedule of immunisation recently advised by the Ministry of Health. All the injections were of the triple antigen of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus ; these given in the early months of a child's life are a very important factor in protection against these diseases. The help of the school medical officers in giving refresher doses is very much appreciated.

The total number of children who received protection against Whooping Cough increased to 155, from 126 in 1961 and 128 in 1960. This form of immunisation reached a new high level this year. The figures included 134 children born in 1962, 15 in 1961, four in 1960 and two in 1959. This showed a very encouraging increase in the number of children under one year of age immunised i.e., to 134 from 110, the previous year.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough appeared to be having a very decided effect on the incidence of the disease. This year, as in 1960,

no case of Whooping Cough was notified. The graph comparing the incidence of Whooping Cough with the yearly number of children protected against this disease has been continued and clearly shows the rapidly declining numbers of notifications of the disease, with occasional recessions as happened in 1961 when 35 cases were notified.

Tetanus

The effect of the use of the triple antigen has increased the number of children who received protection against Tetanus during the year to 155, compared with 126 in 1961 and 128 in 1960. 134 of these children were under one year of age.

Vaccination against Smallpox

The total number of primary vaccinations against Smallpox increased to an unprecedented extent due to the outbreak of the disease in Bradford and district. An almost panic rush to be vaccinated followed. A total of 411 primary vaccinations was completed, compared with 96 in 1961 and 112 in 1960. The vaccinations in 1962 included 139 of children under one year, 29 one to four years, 89 from 5 to 14 years and 154, 15 years and over.

The number of revaccinations were 216 of which 172 were persons aged 15 or over. In 1961, there were four and in 1960, only one revaccination.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The campaign against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year. Oral vaccine was made available to the public on the 5th March, 1962. By the end of the year in the South Area which comprises the Urban Districts of Gosforth, Newburn and Prudhoe and the Rural District of Castle Ward, 2,253 children and persons had had a course of three doses of the oral vaccine, and 4,508 a reinforcing dose, after previous primary courses of injections.

24,174 children born between 1943 to 1962, 3,912 persons born between 1933 and 1942 and 6,500 in other groups had had a course of two injections of salk vaccine. The number of persons given third injections of salk vaccine was 28,323 and the number given fourth injections was 7,950.

4. Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Depot at Front Street, Prudhoe has been in use since August, 1961. The Prudhoe ambulance made a total of 703 journeys, carried 3,490 patients, of which 113 were accident and emergency cases and 302 stretcher cases and travelled a total of 27,053 miles.

The figures for the previous year were 659 journeys, 3,385 patients of which 132 were accident and emergency cases and 310 stretcher cases and the total mileage was 25,505 miles.

An ancillary car service was commenced in 1962 to give additional cover to this district and environs. This car is based at Prudhoe. The total mileage for the ambulance car service was 5,322.

Additional journeys were made by the ambulances of the Throckley Depot and the British Red Cross Society in covering the district when the Prudhoe driver was off duty.

5. Home Help Service

A slight increase took place in the number of cases who received the services of a home help to 93 from 85. The cases served were four confinements, one of acute illness, 85 aged and infirm persons, one blind person and two of tuberculosis. The number of aged persons who received the service increased to 85 from 79, the previous year. This service has proved of especial value to elderly persons becoming increasingly infirm at home but able to stay there, very often, until the end.

6. Nursing Care Committees

The District Nurses keep a supply of smaller items of equipment for immediate use and the more specialised items are supplied by the South Area Health Sub. Committee as required. The Nursing Care Committees of Prudhoe and Mickley continue to function and fulfil a useful purpose, although requests are infrequent. The Honorary Secretaries are :—

Mrs. A. L. Knox, of 1 Grange Terrace, Prudhoe.

Mrs. B. Nichols, of 4 Aged Miners' Homes, Mickley Square.

7. Care and After-Care

As previously mentioned, the After-Care Sub.Committee of Newburn and Prudhoe considers the needs of patients suffering from tuberculosis and other lung and heart diseases. Travelling expenses of relatives to hospital were paid in several cases and milk and other extras provided. As has been mentioned in previous reports, this Committee can deal with the provision of comforts not available from any official source.

REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962

To Dr. Madge Hopper,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my annual report.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water Supply	26
Drainage (new or reconstructed)	202
Stables and Piggeries	11
Fried Fish Shops	17
Tents, Vans and Sheds	10
Factories	94
Public Conveniences	107
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	28
Refuse Collection and Disposal	309
Rodent Control	91
Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act)	23
Schools and Shops	51
Public Health and Housing Acts	935
Inquiries and Disinfection in cases of Infectious Disease	43
Butchers, Canteens, Dairies, Fishmongers, Grocers, and Food Preparing Premises	163
Ice Cream Retailers, Manufacturers and Restaurants	44
Street Hawkers' Carts and Vehicles	25
Miscellaneous Food Visits	40
	2,219

Number of Nuisances Found	96
Number of Nuisances Abated	96
Number of Verbal Notices Served	53
Number of Verbal Notices Complied With	53
Number of Informal Notices Served	123
Number of Informal Notices Complied With	117
Number of Statutory Notices Served	10
Number of Statutory Notices Complied With	10

General Administration under the Public Health and Housing Acts

A total of 341 enquiries and complaints were received by the Public Health Department and all were investigated and suitable action taken.

Public Health Act, 1936

Two ash privies were removed and replaced by water closets at the following properties :—

9 North Row, Eltringham.

12 North Row, Eltringham.

A survey was made at the end of 1962 in respect of properties still using privies and the list is appended here :—

	<i>No. of Privies</i>
Blue Bell Bank	1
Cherryburn Cottages	5
Eltringham Farm Cottage	1
Hallyards Farm and Two Cottages	3
No. 3 High Mickley	1
Nos. 9, 10 and 11 Mickley Station Cottages.. .. .	3
Hare and Hounds Inn, Mickley	3
Nos. 35 and 35A Front Street.. .. .	2
West Wylam & Prudhoe Co-op. Society Ltd. (Low Prudhoe)	1
Oakfield Terrace	2
Oaktree Terrace.. .. .	1
St. Thomas' Terrace	2
Wesley Street	3
Broomhouse Farm Cottage	1
Durham Riding Farm and Cottage	2
	<hr/>
	31
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Some of these properties will be removed under the Housing Acts and pressure is being brought to bear on owners in respect of properties which have a reasonable life to carry out the substitution of water closets in place of ash privies. During the past years, a great improvement in sanitation has been effected throughout the area.

Inspections of properties was maintained and a list is given of the various repair work carried out in 1962 :—

Dampness abated	6
Walls and ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	5
Roofs renewed or repaired and chimney stacks re-pointed	17
Walls repointed and eaves gutters renewed or repaired	6
Floors renewed or repaired	2
Doors renewed or repaired	3
Window frames renewed or repaired	5
W'C's, renewed, repaired or provided	12
Water pipes repaired	18
Yard surfaces renewed.. .. .	6
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	3
Drains cleared	75
Dustbins renewed and additional dustbins provided.	43
Food stores provided or repaired	2
Accumulations removed	14
Scullery sinks provided	2
Gullies provided.. .. .	7
Drains repaired or reconstructed	14
New drainage	16
Privies and privy ashpits abolished	2

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	69	—	69
(b) By any other Housing Authority .	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons	—	48	48

Total number of inhabited houses in District 3,154

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority .. 1,592

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

Closing and Demolition	<i>No. of Houses</i>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	205
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	11
3. Houses closed, not demolished	4
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwell- ings and not included in above	1

Repairs**Houses made fit**

5. By informal action	29
6. By owners, following statutory notice	—
7. By local authority in default of owners	—
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	—

Houses Patched

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	—
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Clearance Programme

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remain- ing to be dealt with at end of year	20
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958****House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959****Housing Act, 1961***No. of separate houses***A. Discretionary Grants**

1. Applications submitted to local authority during year ..	8
2. Applications rejected	—
3. Applications approved	8
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£225
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in your area since inception of scheme	124

B. Standard Grants						<i>During the year</i>	<i>Total to date</i>
1.	Number of separate houses for which grants have been made					—	—
2.	Number of houses so provided with						
(a)	Bath or shower ..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(b)	Wash hand basin ..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(c)	Hot water supply ..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(d)	Water closet ..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(e)	Food store ..	..	..	..	..	—	—

Public Health Act, 1936

Number of privy closets in use in your area as at the end of the year : 31 Actual.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

9th October, 1950.	Model Byelaws, Series (1), Ministry of Food. Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1955. For securing cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.
31st December, 1953.	Model Byelaws (Buildings).
1st June, 1960.	Building Byelaws made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.
1st January, 1961.	Building Byelaws made under Section 61 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Housing

The last families in The Terrace, West Wylam were rehoused by the Council in the early part of the year.

Demolition of Hallyards Cottages was carried out and the sites cleared.

Stanley Burn Cottage was demolished and West Side Farm Cottages closed for habitation.

Drainage Work

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to new drainage work due to the extensive building contracts being carried out at Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital and to the development of the Highfield Lane Estate by G. Wimpey and Co. Ltd., where 51 houses were under construction.

Public Conveniences

Constant supervision and cleansing operations have been necessary to keep these conveniences in a satisfactory state due to vandalism.

The Engineer's Department carried out an improvement scheme for the Road Ends Conveniences and this has undoubtedly improved their appearance.

Refuse Collection and Disposal (House and Trade Refuse)

This Public Health Service has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner and few complaints were received throughout 1962.

At the end of the year, climatic conditions were bad and the collection and disposal of refuse became a very difficult operation due to the state of roads, footpaths and the deep snowdrifts.

The amount of sickness varied throughout the year but a total of 227 days absence was recorded. It is this absence which causes delays in collection due to vehicles being undermanned and particularly in the winter months when the work is heaviest.

Representations were made to the National Coal Board about the amount of stone in coal being delivered to miners, as the stone content was high and increased the weight considerably of refuse to be removed.

The collection and disposal of refuse was carried out by three vehicles. In addition, one vehicle is always kept as a reserve.

1. Karrier	JNL 986	Purchased 1955.	10 cu. yds.
2. Shelvoke & Drewry	NNL 624	„ 1958.	12 cu. yds.
3. Karrier	21 SBB	„ 1961.	7 cu. yds.

Reserve Vehicle. Karrier. ETY 298. Purchased 1951. 7 cu. yds.

Trade Refuse Charges

These charges were examined and a new scale approved by the Council which brought the annual cost to a more realistic figure than had obtained for some time.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

The register at the end of 1962 was as follows :—

Garages	10
Joiners' and Builders' Premises.. .. .	7
Boot and Shoe Repairers.. .. .	3
Sanitary Pipes and Brickworks	3
Blacksmiths and Light Engineering	2
Battery Charging	3
Chemical Works	1
Miscellaneous (Building operations, etc.)	16
	<hr/>
	45
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FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959**Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are be enforced by Local Authorities	21	59	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	23	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	3	12	—	—
TOTAL	45	94	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Re-medied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	4	4	—	—	—

Outwork

There are no outworkers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13—Inspection and Supervision of Food

Butchers	..	..	4
Canteens..	..	..	2
Clubs	..	..	4
Fried Fish Shops	..		3
General Dealers..	..		47
Hospital Kitchens	..		2
Public Houses	..		9
School Kitchens..	..		6
Snack Bars	..	..	1
			<hr/>
			78
			<hr/>

During the year, one butcher's shop closed down.

Two confectioners' shops were completely refurnished and modernised.

There are several travelling shops and sales vans and inspections were carried out from time to time to see if hygienic conditions prevailed.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Inspection of Food

<i>Unsound Food</i>	<i>Surrendered</i>
Beef	160½ lbs.
Corned Beef	24 lbs.
Tongue, Ham and Pork ..	24¾ lbs.
Various Canned Foods, etc. ..	233 contrs.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Meat has been disposed of by incineration and burying in the Refuse Tip at West Wylam.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 24—Sale of Horse Flesh

There are no premises dealing in horse flesh.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16—Registration of Premises.
(Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream and of Sausages, etc.)**

There are 47 premises registered under this section and all have been regularly inspected.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947**Sampling of Ice Cream**

Thirteen samples of ice cream were taken from various retailers and examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle. In all cases, the samples were reported to be Grade 1.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 63—Licensing of Slaughter Houses

There is no slaughterhouse in use.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

Two licences are held by residents of the district for the slaughter of animals for human consumption.

Inspection and Control of Milk Supplies

The Public Health Department co-operates with the Northumberland County Council in the examination of milk as sold by retail and eleven samples were taken by the County Council. In all cases, the results were satisfactory.

Visits were made to dairies where milk is stored.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269—Tents, Vans and Sheds

Number of licences — 1.

Disinfection of Premises

A number of disinfections were carried out by the Public Health Department.

Disinfestation of Premises

Treatments were given after complaints of various infestations which had occurred.

Places of Entertainment. Circular 120 Ministry of Health

Number of Cinemas — 1.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There is no pet shop.

Offensive Trades. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107

Restriction on establishment of offensive trade in urban district

There is no offensive trade in the district.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

No action was necessary under this act.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No action was necessary.

Landlord and Tenant Act, 1962.

A number of applications was received for " Permitted Numbers " from owners of properties.

Pests Act, 1949. Rodent Control

The regular work of destroying all rats and mice wherever reported was continued and sewer treatments carried out at the end of the year again confirmed the absence of rats in the Council's sewerage system.

Warfarin has been exclusively used and found, at all times, to be satisfactory.

The Rodent Operator has carried out his work in a very efficient manner.

The advice of the local officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has been obtained from time to time, and it is gratifying to report that the co-operation between the Ministry and this local authority is much appreciated.

A number of talks by the Ministry's Officers in connection with Rodent Control and other Disinfestation Work was given at Hexham and again my thanks are due to them for their assistance in this work.

The tabulated statement given below shows the work done during the year 1962 and a copy of this report was sent to the Ministry.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) Local Author- ity	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Coun- cil Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	3148	88	3248	27
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification ..	—	69	3	72	—
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—					
Common Rat Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	—	21	3	24	—
Ship Rat.. Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	—	35	—	35	—
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	12	151	42	205	21
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—					
Common Rat Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	3	8	—	11	—
Ship Rat.. Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse Major ..	1	—	—	1	—
Minor ..	2	4	3	9	—
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ..	—	87	12	99	4
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—					
Common Rat Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	—	3	—	3	—
Ship Rat.. Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	—	1	—	1	—
5. Total inspections carried out including re-inspect- ions	36	262	58	356	27
6. Number of infested pro- perties (in Sections 2, 3 and 4) treated by the L.A.	12	72	6	90	—
7. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	12	81	6	99	—

Conclusion

The year 1962 saw the final removal of the old houses at Mickley Square and demolition of properties commenced at Eltringham Village.

Broomwood Huts, Mickley, which were over 40 years old were demolished.

Several individual unfit houses were closed for habitation and survey work was proceeding to ascertain the number of houses which would have a fairly short life.

A contract for 39 houses was commenced in December on the West Wylam Estate and when these are completed the number of houses on this estate will then be 659.

Further private housing development took place, 51 houses being completed at Highfield Lane and 12 were under construction for the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital at Park Avenue.

During the past three years, considerable private housing development has taken place south of Drawback, nearly 200 houses having been built.

In the early part of the year, a new school was opened at West Wylam and the East C.P. School at Front Street was then discontinued.

It is now apparent that a new Prudhoe is arising with the removal from the landscape of the old colliery houses at Mickley Square and West Wylam Village. The most noticeable improvement is at the east end of the town since the demolition of The Terrace, as now a magnificent view of the countryside to the north can be obtained when passing along A695. In due course it is hoped to remove some further old properties at West Wylam which will result in a further beautifying of the West Wylam Estate.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and Members of the Council for their support. I would also like to again record my thanks to Miss Joyce Gray who has carried out her work in a very capable manner and for her great assistance to me in the work of the Public Health Department.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. TWEDDLE,

Public Health Inspector.

